

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1-3 and add new claims 6-15 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1. (currently amended) A printer, ~~which comprises~~  
comprising:

a platen roller, ~~for~~ for conveying a recording sheet,  
a print head, ~~head~~ head arranged opposite the platen roller,  
a drive unit, ~~for~~ for rotating the platen roller, and  
a main frame, including a pair of side walls that can  
rotatably support the platen roller, ~~characterized in that:~~  
wherein

the drive unit includes

a motor for outputting a rotational force,  
idler gears, gears for transmitting a the  
rotational force ~~provided~~ outputted by the motor to the platen  
roller, and

a gear fitting member, member integrally formed  
with gear support shafts that support the idler gears;

the motor and idler gears are capable of being  
mounted in the main frame while attached to the gear fitting  
member; and

a drive gear of the motor and the idler gears are stored in a space defined by the gear fitting member and one of the side walls of the main ~~frame~~. frame; wherein

the motor is attached through a flange member to the gear fitting member, and an engagement groove that is fitted in the distal end of one of the gear support shafts is formed in the flange member.

2. (currently amended) A printer according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the gear fitting member is formed of an alloy material by die casting.

3. (currently amended) A printer according to claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the alloy material is a zinc alloy, a magnesium alloy or a titanium alloy.

4.-5. (canceled)

6. (new) A printer according to claim 1, wherein the print head is a thermal head in which a plurality of heat generating members are arranged in a line.

7. (new) A printer, comprising:  
a main frame having two spaced-apart opposed side walls;  
a platen roller rotatably supported by the two side walls;

a print head disposed opposite the platen roller; and  
a preassembled drive unit mounted in a preassembled state to one of the side walls for rotationally driving the platen roller, the preassembled drive unit comprising a support member integrally formed with gear support shafts, a rotary motor supported by the support member and having a drive gear, and idler gears rotatably mounted on respective gear support shafts for transmitting rotational movement of the drive gear to the platen roller, the drive gear and the idler gears being disposed in a space defined by the gear support member and the one side wall.

8. (new) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the rotary motor has a connecting flange by which the rotary motor is connected to the support member, and the connecting flange has an opening in which is fitted a distal end of one of the gear support shafts.

9. (new) A printer according to claim 8; wherein the support member is a die-cast structure.

10. (new) A printer according to claim 9; wherein the die-cast support member is formed of a zinc alloy, a magnesium alloy or a titanium alloy.

11. (new) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the print head is a thermal head having heat generating members arranged in a line.

12. (new) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the support member has a first section to which the rotary motor is mounted, and a second section offset from the first section and from which the gear support shafts extend.

13. (new) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the support member is formed of a resin material.

14. (new) A printer according to claim 7; wherein the support member is a die-cast structure.

15. (new) A printer according to claim 14; wherein the die-cast support member is formed of a zinc alloy, a magnesium alloy or a titanium alloy.